

SHORE TIES VOL. 7

USCGC HARRIET LANE (WMEC 903) NEWSLETTER
January-March 2007, Operation CARIBE VENTURE Patrol

From the Cabin:

I hope everyone is doing fine back home and I know you are counting down the days until our safe return. We have had another quiet patrol but the weather has been much better and there is no snow down here to shovel. Some of you may find when we return, slimmer husbands, boyfriends or sons. On the second day out on our patrol, I challenged every crew member to work hard to achieve a physical fitness, professional or personal goal during this patrol. CWO Cruz, our Education Service Officer, schedules end of course and other advancement and professional development tests every Sunday afternoon. Although we will be underway for only 39 days, we have had 24 people take exams during this short patrol so far. We also have three crewmembers, HS1 Brian Richardson, ET2 Keith Jarvis, and SK2 Chris Harrell, who are enrolled and taking distance learning, web-based, online college courses. On the personal side, I encouraged the crew to set priorities within their families or start the new year off right by correcting previous financial issues, personal relationships, or just sending an email to a friend/family member to reconnect.

There is a beautiful picture of very narrow channel in **Willemstad, Curacao** where we moored up twice during this patrol. My Operations Officer, LTJG Frank Morrison and I met with the Commander of the Royal Netherlands Navy in the Caribbean (a one star admiral) and his staff during these two visits. We discussed and coordinated our support for Operation CARIBE VENTURE, a multinational counter-drug operation with Dutch and USCG ships as well as French, Canadian and Dutch aircraft. HARRIET LANE became this operation's primary ship. We have been credited with disrupting (forcing vessel to return or not make its final destination) a go-fast carrying 600 kg of cocaine and assisted another USCG cutter who recovered \$250, 000 of American money thrown overboard during a go-fast chase. LT Lee Fleming and his hard working department of engineers had our ship making 21.8 kts of speed during this chase, the fastest I have seen HARRIET LANE move in quite some time.

I want to personally thank MKC Jack Rowland, as my Chief of the Boat (COB) /Command Chief, who will be departing prior to the next patrol. His three years of highly dedicated service in the Main Propulsion Division, coupled with his outstanding leadership and sound recommendations as my COB, is highly commendable as he made my job much easier. He will be missed by all and I wish him best of luck in his new assignment as the Engineer Petty Officer on USCGC SHRIKE. I also want to congratulate MK1 Jeremy Hancock for his selection as HARRIET LANE's Sailor of the Year. For long range planning purposes, CDR John McKinley will be relieving me at my change of command on July 17, 2007 at 1000, several days after we return from our two month patrol.

Best Regards,
CAPT Chris Scraba
Commanding Officer, USCGC HARRIET LANE (WMEC 903)

Letter from the Command Chief:

Hello again shipmates, family and friends, this will be my last Shore Ties Newsletter. This summer, we have 7 of the 9 chief's onboard transferring. The following Chiefs are due to depart over the next 4 months: OSC Paul Agliano, BMC Dan Certa, OSC Matt Clark, FSC Archie Lee, ETC Wes Richie, DCC John Roy, and myself, MKC Jack Rowland. I'll be handing over the position of Command Chief to BMC Dan Certa for the interim until he departs. During the month of July, the cutter will have a change of command, and the new Commanding Officer will select a new Command Chief. We've seen many changes over the last 2 years onboard. The crew has made a great impression on the rest of the Coast Guard with their accomplishments and how the first lady of the fleet looks. During this patrol, we have had casualties to set us back some, but we worked through them and stayed on course to complete the mission we set out to do. As we approach our inport time, we have a busy schedule ahead to meet the next deployment. But don't forget to take some time off work to spend with family and friends, as we all know the next trip is a longer duration. For the one's transferring enjoy your last few days onboard and pass on your knowledge to your replacement or other personnel. This will let the next crew that comfort zone, along with first lady keeping the tradition as being one of the best cutters to sail on.

I would like to close in saying it was a great pleasure to serve and work with Captain Scraba and the crew of the HARRIET LANE. Thanks to all shipmates, family and friends for their strong support, and dedication given to the crew and cutter so we can complete its missions.

*OSC Paul Agliano
FSC Archie Lee
MKC Jack Rowland*

*BMC Daniel Certa
MKC Frank Linkous
DCC Jonathan Roy*

*OSC Matt Clark
ETC Wesley Richie
EMC George Rutledge*

HARRIET LANE in Action:



SA Beavers being advanced to SN



Standing a Bridge Watch



SK2 Harrell relaying information to the bridge during a AMIO drill on the transit to the Caribbean



Mooring at Coast Guard Base San Juan, Puerto Rico



Crew Manning the Starboard Rail during inbound transit to San Juan Puerto Rico



Fender Detail during Special Sea Detail



Crew recognizing the FS's after cooking a Superbowl Feast the night before



Inbound Transit to Puerto Rico



ENS Watts being promoted to LTJG



.50 Cal gunshot



ENS Walker on his way to work out



BM3 Gilliland writing emails home



ET2 Jarvis and SK2 Harrell on the messdeck working on college courses.



FN Hester working in the Scullery



BM3 Beck with Willemstad, Curacao in the background



MK1 Hancock writing emails home



BM3 Gilliland looking like a ghost after sanding the bridge



ET1 Nelson after conducting small boat checks on the OTH



Operations Department during fall out and gather around after quarters



Ship's Office photo in Willemstad, Curacao



Crewmembers working out.



Cane Garden Bay, Tortola



FA Crain's advancement to FN

Patrol Notes

Underway, Operation Carib Venture

Greetings from the Caribbean! The crew of the mighty warship HARRIET LANE has been underway for five weeks with one week remaining in our patrol. HARRIET LANE left Portsmouth, VA on a cold, wintry, January morning to head south in search of warmer weather and the ever relentless Go-Fast drug smuggler. HARRIET LANE has a very fortunate opportunity to work in support of the Dutch based out of Willemstad, Curacao during this 39 day patrol. The crew of the HARRIET LANE has had a lively patrol thus far working hard during many events such as helicopter operations, small boat operations and personal qualifications.

After leaving Portsmouth, HARRIET LANE transited to Mayport, Florida to recertify both the boarding teams and the flight deck of the ship for Airborne Use of Force (AUF) Operations with the MH-68 HITRON Helicopter. During the Use of Force work-ups, members of HITRON Jacksonville race around in a speed boat to simulate a drug-laden Go-Fast. The armed helicopter, cutter and our small boat coordinate reporting, interdicting and seizing the Go-Fast. The exercise is an excellent opportunity to rehearse our procedures before facing a real smuggling scenario.

After leaving Mayport, FL the ship traveled to San Juan, Puerto Rico to onload fuel and load stores for rest of the patrol. While in San Juan, the crew was able to purchase last minute items and prepare for the patrol in the deep Caribbean.

During our time underway, the cutter has also been busy training each crewmember and maintaining the readiness of all equipment. In addition to frequently practicing for possible fire, flooding, or other casualties, we've also had a .50 caliber machine gun and 76mm gun shoot. Practicing and running drills has allowed the cutter to be truly SEMPER PARATUS, always ready.

Throughout the patrol, we have engaged in pursuits of go fast vessels, working in coordination with both Royal Netherlands Navy Ships and other USCG cutters to disrupt their illegal drug operations.

Nearing the end of February, the crew finally got the chance to enjoy some R&R in our first port call of Willemstad, Curacao, the largest island of the Netherlands Antilles. The crew took part in the local shopping and beautiful breathtaking beaches.

We are now working our way through the final weeks of the patrol, continuing our active search for suspicious vessels that might be carrying illegal contraband. We conducted our final port call in Tortola, British Virgin Islands. This was an exceptionally beautiful island. Afterwards, we'll steam north and arrive to Hampton Roads on morning of March 8th to pick up ship riders to grade the last of our drills to qualify us for the Battle "E" ribbon. With a successful gunshoot on the morning of the 9th, the crew will return home and will cap an amazing 18 month turnaround from the CG Yard to being among the most distinguished WMEC in the fleet.

LTJG Matthew Brinkley
Public Affairs Officer

Advancements

ENS Watts Advanced to LTJG
OS2 Mizell Advanced to OS1
SA Beavers Advanced SN
FA Sauer Advanced to FN

SA Leblanc Advanced to SN
FA Shorts Advanced to FN
FA Crain Advanced to FN

Qualifications:

Helm/Lookout

SN Bowen

Throttleman

DC2 Douthit

Tie Down

SN Fernandez
IT3 Whitacre

Coxswain

BM3 Heard

Awards

Temporary Cutterman Pin

ET2 Jarvis
FN Crain
FN Shorts
FN Butterfield
SN Rodman
SN Carlyle
SN Ishrat
SN Fernandez

Sea Service Ribbon

OS3 Martin
SN Taylor